



Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

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Status Conference Held on Independent Support Coordination

A status conference was held on March 17, 2000 on the topic of independent support coordination services. Counsel for all parties were present as well as members of the Quality Review Panel.

The Quality Review Panel gave a presentation on their report on independent support coordination (ISC). This included their findings and recommendations. In addition, comments on ISC were given by Randall Moore, executive director, Compass coordination, Inc., a support coordination agency in Middle and West Tennessee; Jodi Simmons, an ISC employed by Neighborhood Network, Inc., a support coordination agency in West Tennessee; and Donna Harris, a training coordinator and former ISC supervisor employed by Community Network Services, a support coordination agency in East Tennessee.

Comments on independent support coordination were also given by Maria Laurence, consultant employed by People First, and Paul Newman, consultant employed by the United States.

There were concerns and issues raised and the parties agreed to address them. A follow-up status conference on ISC is set for Friday, May 5, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

News About Charlie

Charlie has a new job. He works Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and earns \$5.15 per hour.

His duties include general outside cleaning and picking up paper wastes inside. He has two 15 minutes breaks during each shift and a 30-minute lunch each workday at 11:00 a.m.



Governor Don Sundquist meets with Title 33 Commission members Scott Finney (of the Arc of Tennessee) and Representative Mary Ann Eckles during the presentation.

Title 33 Revision Commission Presents Recommendations to the Governor

The Title 33 Revision Commission presented a comprehensive set of recommendations for revision of the law to the governor in January.

The 26-member Commission, appointed by Governor Don Sundquist in 1998, was charged with reviewing Title 33 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, the law that governs provision of services to citizens with mental illness and/or mental retardation.

Commission chair Evelyn C. Robertson Jr. said, "Most of the

recommendations are derived from the expertise and experience of people affected by or directly involved in services and supports for people with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

The entire 200 page document can be seen on the DMHMR's web site at www.state.tn.us/mental. The recommendations have been introduced as SB 307/HB 3004 and may be tracked at the legislative site at www.legislature.state.tn.us

Edington Promoted To Asst. Deputy Commissioner

William Edington, a veteran in planning and developing services for persons with mental retardation, was promoted to the position of assistant deputy commissioner in the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) effective March 1. DMRS deputy commissioner Barbara Brent announced the appointment.

Edington attended Hiwassee Junior College and earned a bachelor of social



work degree (magna cum laude) from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City in 1977.

His first five years of professional service were spent in the community working for two East Tennessee agencies. He joined the State of Tennessee in 1984. Prior to this appointment, he held the post of director of Planning and Development.

A Tennessee native, Edington graduated from West Greene High School in Greeneville.

Happenings In The Community

- "Kindred," a touring exhibit of 36 black and white portraits of Tennesseans with disabilities, recently began a statewide tour. The Developmental Disabilities Council and the Kennedy Center created the exhibit so Tennesseans could get to know their neighbors with disabilities in everyday life activities. For more information: Wanda Willis at (615) 532-6615, TTY (615) 741-4562.
- The Pikeville Center that serves persons with developmental disabilities in Bledsoe and Sequatchie counties recently came under new management and adopted a new name. The Skills Training and Rehabilitation Services (STARS) is now managed by the southeast Tennessee Resources Agency. Long-term staff member Kim Whited was named director.
- A member of the DMHMR State Board of Trustees, former senator John Hicks passed away in March. A longtime legislator, Hicks was from the Donelson area and had served on the Board of Trustees for about 10 years.

Wheels In Motion: Job Access Transportation

A new grant has been established and distributed among 11 human resource agencies across the state of Tennessee.

Through the grant, people who are classified as low income (based on the HHS poverty guidelines) can receive transportation to and from work free of charge.

If interested in more information or to apply in East Tennessee, contact **Gary Taylor, Transportation Development Coordinator, 298 Blair Bend Drive, Loudon, TN 37774 - Phone: (865) 408-0843.**

For other areas of the state, contact your local Human Resource Agency and inquire about the Job Access Program.



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Division of
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Services

Don Sundquist, Governor
John Ferguson, Commissioner
Finance and Administration
Barbara Brent, Deputy
Commissioner, DMR Services

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 741-7440 for further information. Persons with hearing impairments call (615) 532-6612.



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Web Site

Commission on Compliance/
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